Religion

NINTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking

San Antonio, Texas
April 15-16-17, 1958

RESOLUTIONS

PASTORAL CARE

1. The Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking recognizes and commends the work that is being done throughout the nation in the spiritual care of the Spanish-speaking people. We urge priests and their helpers to continue their apostolic work in the labor camps, scattered rural settlements and industrial areas.

2. We encourage the participation of the people in the liturgy both as a means of instruction in the truths of the Faith and the fuller sharing in the life of Christ in His Church.

3. We recommend the prayerful study of the possibility that the Church in the United States offer assistance to Latin America in its great need for priests, sisters, brothers and lay workers.

REORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIAL ORDER

4. The basic economic problem of agriculture in the United States is disorganization. Disorganization can be remedied only by organization. Organization of all parties involved is essential, so that these parties may work together to provide for the needs and reasonable gain of those in agriculture and also to serve the common good of all.

5. Therefore we urge producers and contractors to organize themselves into their own respective truly democratic, self-governing associations.

6. We call upon the leaders of organized labor to encourage their unions either to accept farm workers into their membership or else to train and assist farm workers to organize their own effective and responsible unions.

7. We call upon legislators to include all workers, especially those

employed in agriculture under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and Social Security and Unemployment Compensation.

8. We reaffirm most emphatically that Public Law 78 should be terminated and not renewed. Immigration legislation should be in conformity with social justice and charity.

9. We recognize our responsibility to help the people of Mexico and other nations in grave economic distress, both by emergency foreign aid and technical assistance and by international resettlement programs.

10. We recommend that community councils be formed at local, state and national levels to study the problems of Agriculture and to take positive action to help farmers and farm workers to establish peaceful and just labor-management relations.

LAY APOSTOLATE

11. The Catholic Council of the Spanish Speaking is convinced of the indispensible role of lay people in the work of the Church. Their apostolate is not only to assist the priest in the many fields of the pastoral work of the Church, but also to fulfill with the assistance of the priest their own responsibility to breathe into the institutions of secular society the Spirit of the living Christ.

12. Since this Conference has been so earnestly concerned with the groups of people suffering from the depression of agriculture, we particularly urge Catholic men and women to undertake with courage, at this crucial time, the immense work of organizing the desperately needed farm labor unions.

13. We recommend also the study of the policy statements of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in regard to agricultural Labor Problems.

14. We thank the Hierarchy of Mexico for their clear declarations of moral teaching in the complex social question and commend their vigorous social action program.